ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SHELBY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT

BETHESDA CHURCH,

SHELBY COUNTY, ALA.

FROM THE 11TH TO THE 14TH OCTOBER, 1856.

SELMA, ALABAMA:
PRINTED AT THE SELMA REPORTER JOB PRINTING OFFICE.
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MINUTES.

The Fifth Anniversary of the Shelby Baptist Association, was held with Bethesda Church, Shelby county, commencing on Saturday, the 11th October, 1856.

The introductory Sermon was preached by Elder Noah Haggard, from 9th verse, 3d chapter of 1st Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians.

After a short recess, the delegates present, assembled in the Meeting-House, were called to order by Elder T. P. Holcomb, the former Moderator, and Prayer offered by brother J. F. Brasel. Letters from the Churches composing this Association were then called for, received, read, and the following named brethren found to be deputed to sit and act as delegates in the Association, viz:

CHURCHES. DELEGATES.

Beaver Creek.—S. Clabough, W. E. Coker, A. A. Sterrett.
Mt. Horeb.—P. O. Mosely, I. A. Lawler, R. A. Mosely.
Bethesda.—J. D. Teague, J. H. R. Carden, C Salser, *E. Vick, (Alternate.)
Beulah.—James S. Duyck, Asa Wyatt, *Hiram Straciner, Henly Webster, (Alternate.)
Liberty.—T. P. Holcomb, J. C. Gilbert, J. G. Walton.
Union.—Henry Lawley, Wm. Wyatt, *Wm. Lucus.
Sarepta.—J. C. Hand, Jordan Jones, Wm. W. Atkinson, *James Butler, (Alternate.)
Shoal Creek.—Richard Wood, *J. B. McMath, Hiram Holsomback.
Providence.—T. E. Meroney, *Thomas J. Freeman*, Levi A. Honeycut.
Mt. Hope.—*John Lowery, *J. Price, W. Langston.
Cahaba Valley.—T. L. Miles, *Elisha Fancher, *L. T. McGuire.
Enon.—J. F. Brasel, Allen Brasel, *C. H. Collier, *W. V. Arnold.
Freedom.—Not represented.

It being suggested that delegates were in attendance from several other Churches, with letters and petition, asking to unite with and join this Association, on motion, it was unanimously agreed, to give permission at this time for such to be presented; whereupon, the Montevallo Church, Shelby county, was received by letter and petition presented by her delegates, brethren E. King and Noah Haggard. Also, Spring Creek Church

Note.—Ordained Ministers in small caps—the names in *Italics* Licentiates—*denotes absent.

was received by letter and petition, presented by her delegates, Bennet Davis, B. M. Davis, Jno. T. Thweat. Also, the Cahaba Church was received by petition and letter, presented by her delegates, Garland Jones, Elias Glenn, *John P. Martin. Also, Mt. Pisgah Church, St. Clair county, was received by petition, and letter presented by her delegates, Ephraim Frost, Jesse Canady, *Jas. Truss. Also, Mt. Pleasant Church, St. Clair county, was reeeived by petition and letter presented by her delegates, *L. Turner, *H. W. Inzer, Robert Martin, *J. Fulmer. The Montevallo, Cahaba, and Mt. Pisgah, were newly constituted Churches. The Spring Creek and Mt. Pleasant Churches, presented letters showing that they were regularly dismissed from the Coosa River Association.

The Association then proceeded to elect a Moderator and Clerk, elected Elder T. P. Holcomb, Moderator, and A. A. Sterrett, Clerk.

Visiting ministering brethren were then invited to seats with us, which was accepted by Elder Wm. H. Carroll and Elder —— Grimes.

The Association then received correspondence and minutes from sister Associations: from Coosa River by Elder J. M. Scott and J. H. Posey; from Canaan by Elder J. C. Gilbert of this (Shelby) Association; brother Blakely was also received as a messenger from Cahaba Association.

Appointed brethren King, Clabough and Frost, and the delegates from Bethesda Church a committee to arrange preaching during the session of this body.

The committee on preaching appointed brother Fulmer, to preach at the meeting-house to-night, T. E. Maroney, J. D. Teague and Jesse A. Collins, to preach on Sabbath in the order named; brother Teague to preach the Missionary Sermon at 11 o'clock, according to appointment of last Association.

After prayer by brother Scott, adjourned until 9 o'clock Monday morning.

On Sabbath, services were conducted by the persons named by the committee in the order named. At the conclusion of the Missionary Sermon by brother Teague, a collection was taken for domestic Missions in the bounds of the Association amounting to twenty-nine dollars.

Monday morning, 9 o'clock, Association met, after singing and prayer by brother Haggard, proceeded to call the roll and mark absentees.

Received correspondence from the Mulberry Association from her messenger brother Abram Adams, who presented letter and minutes.

Brother Collins, agent of the Indian and Domestic Board of Missions being present, was invited to sit with us and deliver an address on the

subject of Missions at some suitable time during the Association.

On motion, the 8th rule of the decorum was so amended as to permit the Moderator to take the vote of the Association either by standing or otherwise.

Amended the 9th provision of the constitution of this Association by adding the following:

"But any member of this body may introduce a querry when its settlement tends to the peace, harmony and welfare of the Churches."

The following messengers to sister Associations were appointed: to Canaan, T. E. Maroney, and Garland Jones; to the Coosa River, Noah Haggard, Samuel Clabough, T. P. Holcomb, H. W. Inzer; to the Mulberry, Noah Haggard, J. G. Walton, Thos. J. Freeman, Levi A. Honeycut, Wm. H. Carroll, T. P. Holcomb, J. D. Teague, James S. Duyck; to the Cahaba, N. Haggard, Wm. H. Carroll, Allen Brasel; also, to the Baptist State Convention, Brethren E. King, N. Haggard, W. H. Carroll, Allen Brasel, J. G. Walton. Brother King requested to write the letter.

The following committees were appointed:

On Finance.—E. King and J H. R. Carden.

On Documents.—Jordan Jones, J. C. Gilbert.

Appointed the next Association to be held with Enon Church, Bibb co., about five miles above Centreville, on the road to Montevallo, on Saturday before the 2d Sabbath in October, 1857.

Appointed J. C. Hand, to preach the next Introductory Sermon, J. G. Walton, Alternate, W. H. Carroll, to Preach the Missionary Sermon, J. C, Hand, Alternate.

The Committee on Finance reported as sent up by the churches and received by them for Minutes $25,50, and for Associational purposes $20,45, which report was received and said committee discharged, said sums being paid over to the Treasurer.

Brother Webster, offered the following amendment to the first article of the constitution of this Association:

"To strike out all, after the words 'Ordained Ministers,' in the fifth line of said article, and insert in lieu thereof, 'whose membership is within the bounds of the Association, whether said Minister be a delegate or not.'"

An opportunity being given to brother Collins, agent of Domestic and Indian Missions, to present the claims of those Missions, he did so in a short and pertinent address; after which, a collection was taken up for those Missions amounting to $24,45 cash, and 24,45 in pledges. Permission being given, brother Collins, in a few and pertinent remarks, urged

the claims of the Southwestern Baptist, published at Tuskegee, Alabama, for patronage.

After singing and prayer by the Moderator, adjourned until 9 o'clock, Tuesday Morning.

Tuesday morning the Association met pursuant to adjournment, and after prayer by brother Walton, proceeded to business.

The first thing in order being the motion to amend first article of the constitution of this Association, which, on motion of brother Webster, was continued until next session of this body.

The committee on Documents reported that they had examined the documents submitted to them as well as the time limited would allow, that they find nothing therein requiring notice on the Minutes, but they recommend to the reading community, the Tennessee Baptist, published by Graves, Marks & Co., Nashville, Tennessee, and the Southwestern Baptist, by Henderson, Tuskegee, Alabama.

Directed any money in the hands of brethren collected for domestic Missionary purposes, to be paid over to the Treasurer of this body, except that in the hands of brother King, collected for our present Missionary, J. G. Walton, which he will pay over to him, whereupon brother Jordan Jones, of Sarepta Church, paid $10, brother Honeycut, from Providence Church paid $6,50, brother Mosley and Clabough. the amount of the collection on Sabbath, $29.

Brother King, of the Executive committee, appointed at the last session, made the following report:

According to appointment, the committee appointed by the Shelby Association in October, 1855, met at Mt. Horeb Church, on Saturday before the 2d Sabbath in December, 1855, and organized by appointing E. King, Chairman, The following Churches were represented:

Beaver Creek, by brother Clabough: the Church sent up no pledge, but a pledge of $5 each, was made by brethern Clabough and Sterrett,	$10,00
Mt. Horeb Church, by brother Mosely, pledged	10,00
Bethesda, by brother Carden, pledged	30,00
Beulah, by brother Webster, pledged	4,00
Liberty, by brother Brasher, pledged	5,50
Shoal Creek, by brother King, pledged	20,00
Cahaba Valley, no delegate, but a pledge of	10,00
	$89,50
Since the meeting of the committee at Mt. Horeb, a pledge from Enon Church of	$15,00
	$104,50

Elder J. G. Walton, was appointed to labor in our bounds as a Missionary, and being recommended to the Board of Domestic Missions of the Southern Baptist Convention at Marion, he was adopted and appointed by them a "Home Missionary" for nine months, and a pledge made of one hundred dollars towards his support, brother Walton to report to said Board.

The committee have but little knowledge of the progress and success of the Mission, and request that brother Walton (being present) be allowed to report to the Association, that we may know in what manner he has labored, and the success attending the same. Respectfully submitted,

E. KING, Chairman.

Thereupon, brother Walton, the Domestic Missionary, made the following report, to-wit: "I commenced my labors on the first of April, and have been engaged the most of the time in your service, except a short time occasioned by sickness in my family. It will be remembered that I was appointed to labor in your service for the term of nine months, which will include the balance of the year. I have labored principally in the destitute portions of our Association, and have traveled 1,460 miles, delivered 83 Sermons, and 16 exhortations, made 116 religious visits to families and persons, visited 6 churches, attended 6 prayer meetings, assisted in the constitution of a church at one of my regular preaching places, received three by experience, baptised one, attended three protracted meetings, one of which has just closed at our church (Liberty) where God graciously revived us, and thirty more added to our number. At most of the places where I have preached, a deep interest was manifested—many came to the anxious seat for prayer—several have professed faith in Christ, and among them, one, a Universalist, who told me if there was a Baptist Church near him, he would join it. I have been kindly received by all, and the people in those destitute regions desire that the preaching of the Gospel shall be continued among them. In conclusion, permit me to say, that I humbly trust God has blessed my feeble efforts to the everlasting good of some souls, who I am unable to name in this report,

Respectfully submitted, J. G. WALTON,

Domestic Missionary.

Brother Carden, from the committee on Missions, made the following report, to-wit: "The Missionary enterprise is no longer a matter of experience. If the Scriptures were silent upon this subject, the success of a

Cary, a Judson, or a Bowen, sufficiently proves that ignorant, sinful and degraded humanity can be taught that there is a God, a Heaven, and a Hell, and that he has a soul to be saved or lost, and the only way to be saved is by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

But the Scriptures are not silent upon this subject. The christian has only to open his Bible and search to understand his duty. The command is to preach the Gospel to every creature, and as we are the recipients of the Gospel, freely we have received, (the command is) freely give. And if it be a blessed thing to give bread to a child perishing of want, what must it be to give to those who are perishing for the bread and water of life, that bread of which, if a man eat he shall never die, and that water which if a man drink, he shall never thirst. Jesus Christ has come into the world and done the work which the Father gave him to do. He conquered the powers of darkness, led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men; he has purchased the church with his own blood and purified unto himself a peculiar people zealous of good works. He has given this work to his church as an instrument to do.

Preach the Gospel to every creature is the command. Now if all the Ministers were turned loose and should give their time wholly to studying and preaching the word (a state of things which the Scriptures require) they never could carry out the command. Inspiration has given the best interpretation of the scope of this command, in these words—"*Let him that heareth say come.*" That the first Desciples so understood the theory of the manner in which the Gospel was to spread, is evident from their labors.

They that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word. Who were they? Men and women, into whose houses, Saul the persecutor had entered, when he made havoc of the church. To laymen, not ministers, did the Apostle write, "Ye shine as lights in the world holding forth the word of life." It will not be doubted that it is the purpose of God to regenerate the world through the agency of his churches. The duties which christians owe to the unconverted, we have indicated in the above.

An example in the manner of their performance and of their efficacy, is furnished by the labors of the Karen laymen. There is a power in a personal appeal, in a private, affectionate application of the truth to the individual conscience and heart, far greater than can be ordinarily attained to in the pulpit or in any general addresses to the masses of people. And the fact that the knowlege of the Lord is to "Cover the whole earth as the waters cover the bed of the great deep, till one shall not have occasion to say to his neighbor, know ye the Lord, but all shall know him from the

least to the greatest," indicates clearly that it is the duty of christians to say to their unregenerate neighbors, "Know ye the Lord." All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. G. WALTON,
J. H. R. CARDEN.

Directed the Treasurer to pay over to brethren Hand and Teague, on account of past services as Missionaries within the bounds of this Association, the money in his hands, except thirty five dollars.

Concluded to dispense with the publication of the constitution, abstract of principles, and rules of decorum, in the Minutes of the present Session, as heretofore contemplated.

Brother Duyck, offered the following resolution upon the subject of Missions in our bounds, to-wit:

"*Resolved*, That we, as an Association, accept the volunteer services of our Ministering Brethren, to labor in destitute communities within the Association, and that we raise all the funds we can, by voluntary contributions by our next session, and the same be distributed to each one according to his labors," which was adopted.

Mt. Hope Church, by W. Langston, her delegate, presented a letter asking dismission from this body, which was granted, and the clerk authorized to write the letter.

Directed the clerk to superintend the printing of the Minutes, that he retain ten dollars for his services, that six hundred copies be printed, that one hundred be reserved for correspondence, and that the clerk write the corresponding letter, and have the same printed with the Minutes.

Brother King offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That we recommend to the Churches of this Association that in appointing delegates to attend the Association, that they select those who are willing to attend and stay until the Association closes.

Appointed brothers King agent of the 2d district, and Sterrett of the 1st, for distributing the Minutes, &c. After singing and prayer by the Moderator, adjourned.

T. P. HOLCOMB, *Moderator*.

A. A. STERRETT, *Clerk*.

Corresponding Letter.

The Shelby Association to Sister Associations, sendeth Christian Salutation:

Dear Brethren: Receive this, our letter, as evidence of our Christian regard and desire to continue correspondence with you. The presence of your messengers and good news communicated by your letters is cheering. We have enjoyed a pleasant and harmonious meeting. God has graciously revived his work in some of the Churches of our body the past year. May the good work continue until all shall be embraced in it. The next Session of our body will be held with Enon Church, five miles above Centreville, Bibb county, Saturday before the 2d Sabbath in October next.

May God bless, revive and prosper you.

Brethren, pray for us, that we may be steadfast, immovable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord. T. P. HOLCOMB, *Moderator.*

A. A. Sterrett, *Clerk.*

CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	Baptised.	Received by Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Dead.	Total Number.	Minutes.	Associational purposes.	Sabbath of Meeting.	PASTORS.
First District—BEAVER CREEK	Shelby.		4			1		41	$ 2,00	$ 2,50	4	T. P. Holcomb.
MOUNT HOREB	"	5			1		1	19	1,00	2,00	2	W. H. Carroll.
BETHESDA	"	2	2		3	1	1	42	2,00	1,50	3	James M. Scott.
BEULAH	"	4			1	1	1	33	2,00	2,00	3	T. P. Holcomb.
LIBERTY	"	22	26	1	2	1	2	98	3,00	2,00	1	do.
SPRING CREEK	"	34	6	1	3	1	1	95	2,00	2,00	2	J. D. Teague.
MOUNT PISGAH	St. Clair.		6				1	12	50	50		James Fulmer.
MOUNT PLEASANT	"							45	75		3	H. W. Inzer.
Sec'd District—UNION	Shelby.	2	4		2		3	51	2,00	20	4	T. E. Maroney.
SAREPTA	"	5	1		4			21	1,25	1,00	2	J. C. Hand.
SHOAL CREEK	"	5	6		14		2	71	2,00	1,00	1	do.
PROVIDENCE	"	1	4		3	2		45	2,00	1,00	4	do.
MOUNT HOPE	"	12	3	2	9	1		50	1,00	25	3	Samuel Owen.
CAHABA VALLEY	Bibb.				2	7		82	1,00	2,00	1	
ENON	"	3	13	3	15	3		75	1,50	1,50	2	D. M. Lloyd.
FREEDOM	Shelby.											
MONTEVALLO	"							11	1,00	1,00	3	
CAHABA	"	2						13	50			J. G. Walton.
		97	75	7	59	18	12	804	$25,50	$20,45		

The Mt. Pisgah Church was constituted in November, 1855, with seven members; Mt. Pleasant in 1850, with twelve; the Montevallo in August, 1855, with eleven, and the Cahaba in July, 1856, with ten.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

Amount on hand according to statement in last Minutes,			$ 4,50
Dec. 10, 1855.	Received of brother E. King, collected of Liberty, Beulah and Bethesda Churches,		7,00
			$11,50
Jan. 14, 1856.	Paid brother Teague for self, and brother Hand		$7,00
			$4,50
March 9, 1856.	Paid brother J. D. Teague,		4,50
Oct., 1856.	Received of Brethren Mosely and Clabough, (collection taken up on Sabbath,)	$29.00	
" "	Received of brother Jordan Jones, from Sarepta Church,	10,00	
" "	Received of brethren Honeycut and Freeman, from Providence Church	6,50	
" "	Received of bro. King, of Finance committee, amount sent up by the Churches for Minutes and Associational purposes	45,95	
			$91,45
" "	Paid brother Hand, balance due for services as Domestic Missionary in 1854,	$13,95	
	Paid brother Teague, do,	13,95	
	Paid " " part of balance due him for services in 1855, viz:	28,55	
	Paid for printing Minutes	25,00	
	Paid Clerk	10,00	$91,45

A. A. STERRETT, Treasurer.